

RPE Program Montana's Sexual Assault Data

MONTANA SEXUAL ASSAULT DATA

Montana has several ways it tracks sexual assault, dating violence, and rape data. Below are data and links to the various state agencies that compile information on sexual violence.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

YRBS is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and is administered in Montana by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). All public schools in Montana with students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to be selected for inclusion in the YRBS sample. Fifty schools are randomly selected and then schools elect to participate. While the survey does not focus solely on sexual violence, it does include key questions that shed light on Montana teen behavior with regard to gender violence.

Montana YRBS Data						
Percentage of those responding, "yes" to the question "have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to."						
2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
8.6%	9.8%	10.2%	8.8%	9.2%	9.8%	8.7%
Percentage of those responding "yes" to the question "During the past 12 months, did a boyfriend, or girlfriend hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose?"						
2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
10.3%	11.7%	10.9%	10.6%	9.6%	11%	8.8%

For more information about the YRBS survey and its findings, please visit www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS or www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) receives funds in a cooperative agreement with the CDC to operate the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Conducted annually, the BRFSS is a phone survey of Montanans 18 years old and older.

On the 2011 survey, 9.1% said that someone had *attempted* to have sex with them after they said or showed that they didn't want to, and 8.1% said that someone *had completed* sex with them after they said or showed that they didn't want to. For more information about the BRFSS survey and its findings, please visit www.brfss.mt.gov.

Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

MBCC annually tracks all crimes reported to Montana law enforcement. The July 2009 *Crime in Montana 2011-2012 Report* states that “since 1978, 8,282 rapes have been reported by Montana’s non-Tribal law enforcement agencies. The mean number of rapes per year since 1978 is 237, and the median is 229. The range was 277, with the highest reported number of rapes at 401 (2005) and the lowest at 124 (1988). Since 1978 the rape rate has tended to trend upward. This may be due to an increased willingness of victims to report these offenses to law enforcement. The rape rate peaked in 2005 and has trended downward to its current level. The 2012 rape rate is down about 21.6% from its high; however, it is 22.1% higher when compared with the historical mean (28.0 per 100,000).” (pg 38).

Year	Number of Offenses	Crime Rate per 100,000
1979	183	23.7
1999	293	37.1
2004	324	35.5
2005	401	43.7
2007	335	36.0
2008	345	36.5
2009	325	33.6
2010	316	32.4
2011	336	33.9
2012	342	34.2

For more information about sexual assault crimes reported to Montana law enforcement and the MBCC, please visit www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport.

Montana Prevention Needs Assessment (MPNA)

The MPNA is produced through Montana's Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). The MPNA tracks information on needs and resources found in Montana with regard to risk factors for substance abuse and other dangerous behaviors. While the MPNA doesn't directly address sexual assault issues, it does catalog data on risk factors regarding perpetration of sexual assault. For example, a risk factor for perpetration of sexual violence is alcohol use (see <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>). By working on lowering the incidence of alcohol use in high-risk age groups (12-24 year olds), we may be able to lower the incidences of sexual assault in Montana. For more information on the MPNA, please visit <http://prevention.mt.gov/pna>.

Clery Act Crime Data from Post-Secondary Institutions

All post-secondary institutions that receive federal funding are required by the Clery Act to report annual crime statistics. Montana has over 30 post-secondary institutions (including two and four year colleges and universities as well as several technical and cosmetology schools) most of which receive some form of federal funding. While states don't have a specific agency that collects and collates this data, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) does. The DOE has created "The Campus Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool." With this instrument, researchers simply click on "Get data for one institution" and then type in the name of the institution they are investigating. This instrument can be found at <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.

Other useful websites for information on sexual violence at post-secondary institutions include

- The Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women at www.ovw.usdoj.gov
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Post Secondary Education, Campus Security at www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus
- Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention at www.higheredcenter.org/
- Security on Campus Inc. at www.securityoncampus.org